

An I Can Read Book™



# CAPTAIN CAT

SYD HOFF



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Story and pictures by  
SYD HOFF

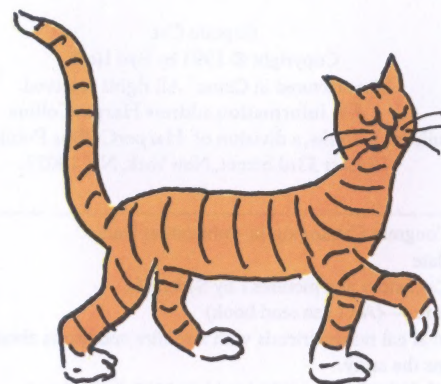




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HarperTrophy®

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Captain Cat

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when he joins the army.

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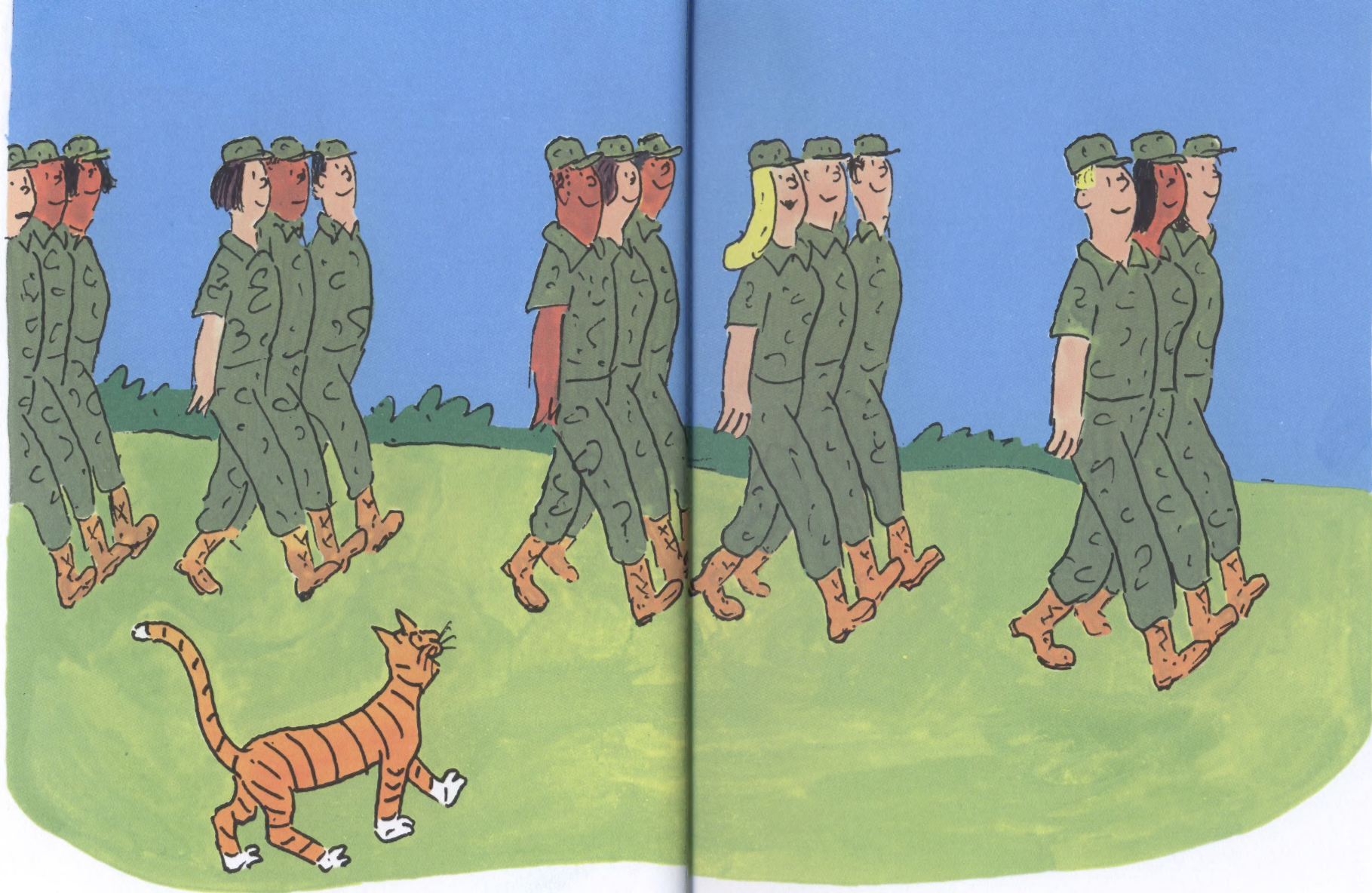




Captain Cat joined the army.

He went in when nobody was looking.





The soldiers marched in a parade.

“Left, right—

left, right . . .”

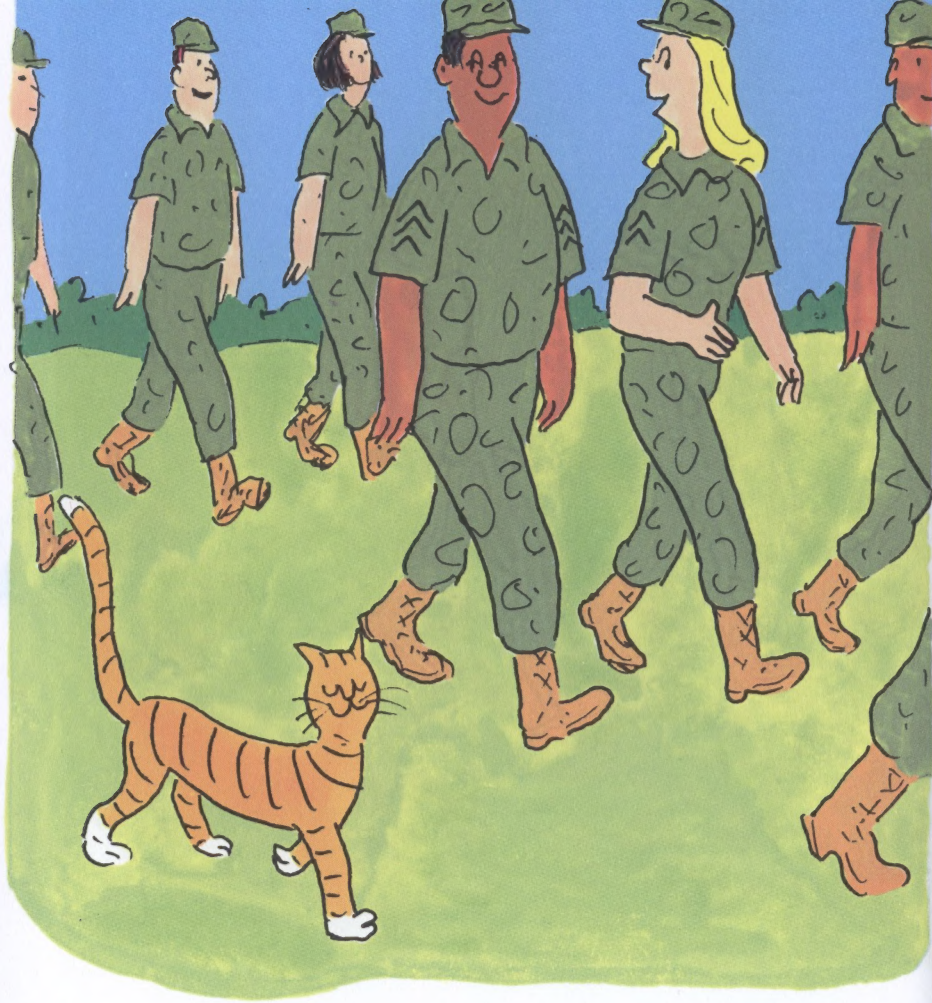




Captain Cat kept in step.

He knew one foot from the other.





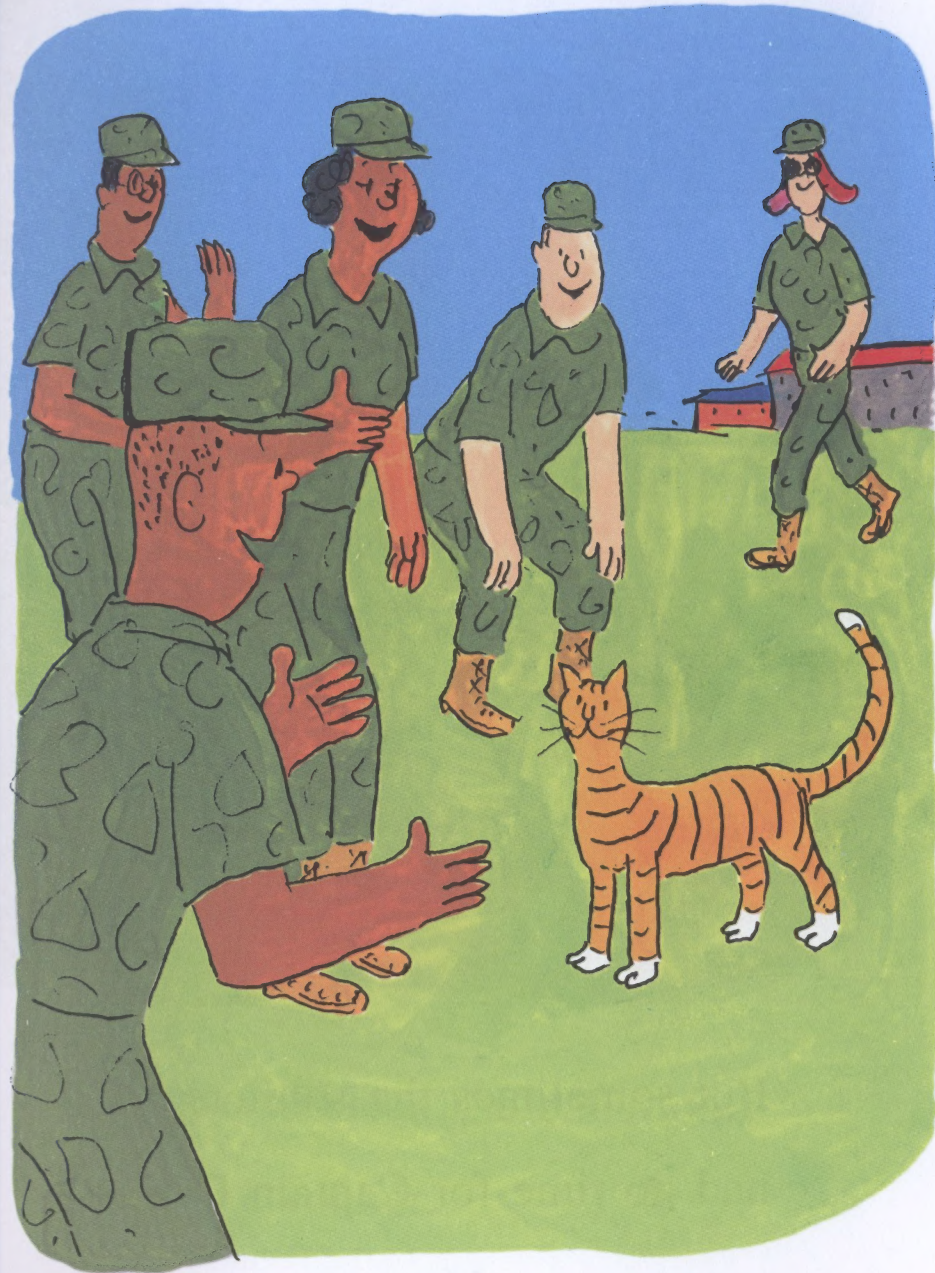
“That cat has more stripes  
than we have,”  
said a corporal to a sergeant.



“Meow,” said Captain Cat.  
Another sergeant looked at the cat.  
“Yes sir!” he said and laughed.



From then on  
everybody started saying,  
“Here, Captain Cat,”  
when they wanted him,  
instead of  
“Here, kitty kitty.”







But sometimes the soldiers  
had no time for Captain Cat.

"I have to clean the bathrooms,"  
said one soldier.





“I have to sweep the grounds,”  
said another soldier.



One soldier named Pete  
always found time for Captain Cat,  
even when he was on guard duty.  
“You remind me of a cat back home,”  
he said, and scratched Captain Cat  
behind the ears.





Pete played with Captain Cat so much,



he got into trouble.



The general made Pete  
do kitchen duty.

Captain Cat kept him company.

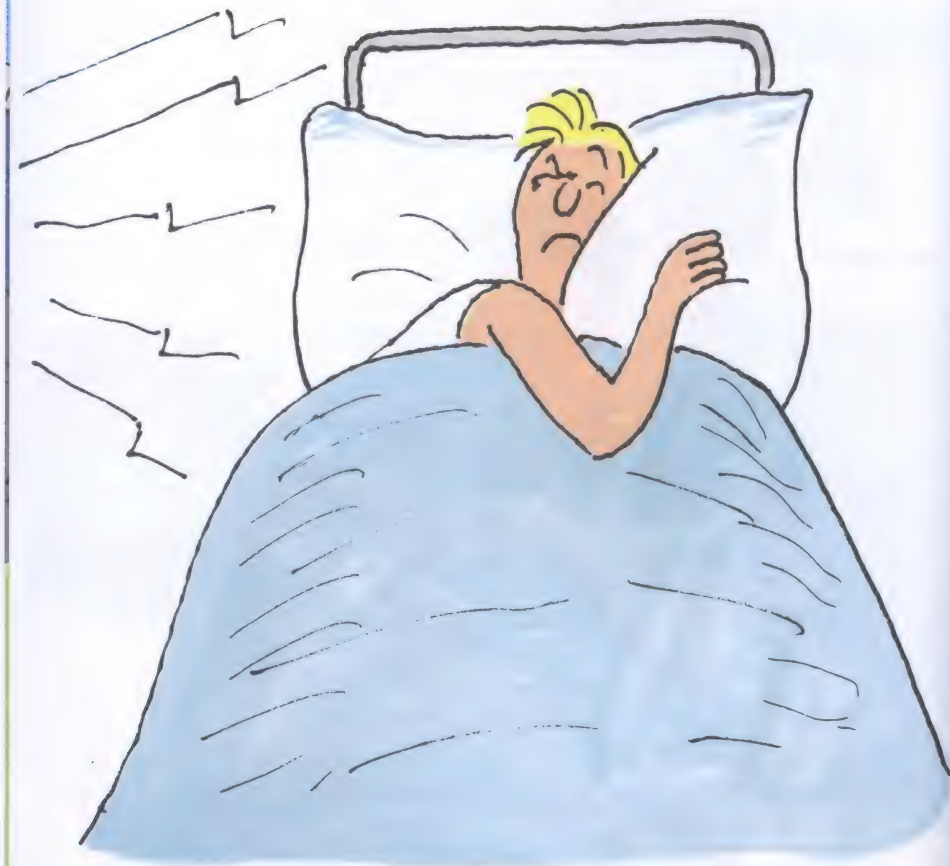
Pete let Captain Cat play  
with the potato peels.

“Are you my buddy?”  
asked Pete.

“Me-ow,” said Captain Cat.







The next morning  
a bugle blew.  
Oh, how Pete hated to get up!



But Captain Cat  
sprang right out of bed.





He had to check out the garbage

before it was taken away.





Then it was time for inspection.  
Everybody lined up.

Captain Cat lined up, too.





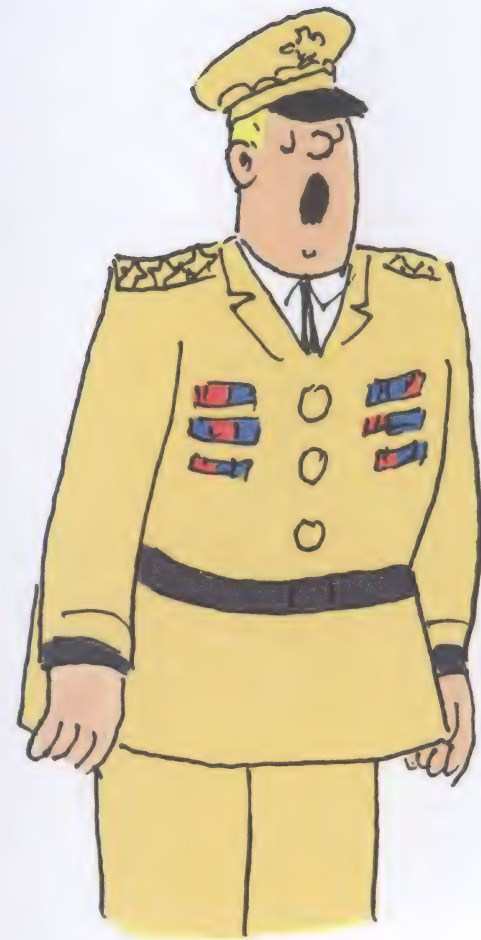
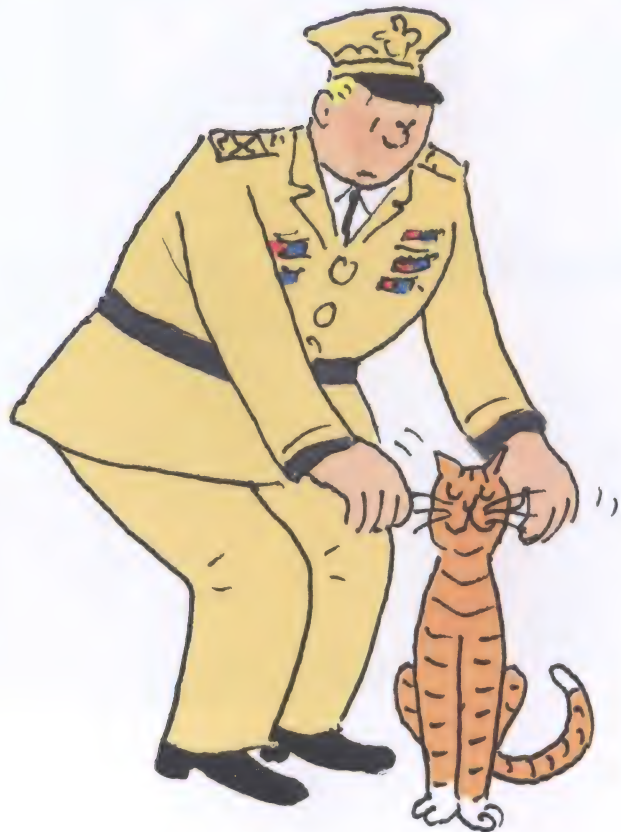
The general fixed a soldier's gun.



He fixed Pete's hat.



All he could fix for Captain Cat  
were his whiskers.



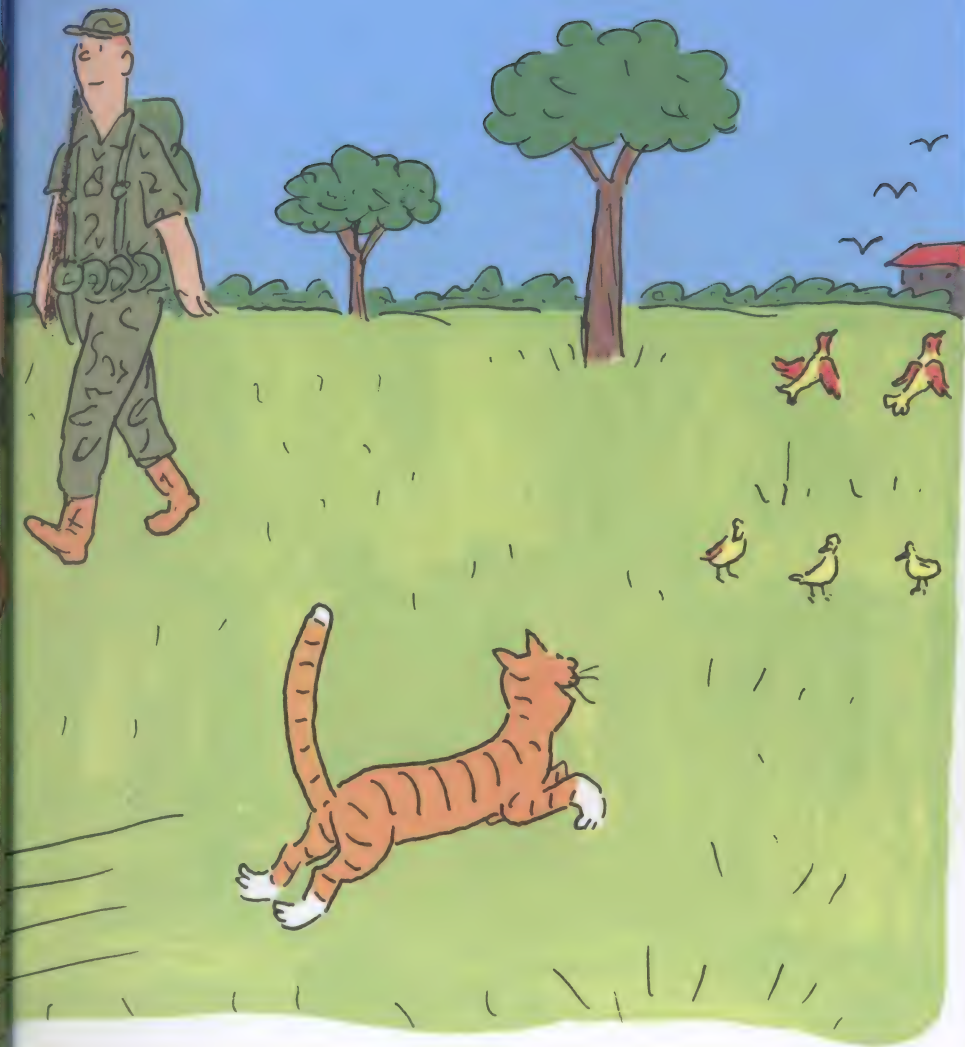
“Forward march!” said the general.





The soldiers went one way.

Captain Cat went the other way.



He had to chase some birds.





The soldiers crawled  
in the mud.



They hiked  
through rain and sleet.



But not Captain Cat!  
He was taking a nap  
on Pete's bed.







Time for chow!

Pete and the other soldiers  
rushed into the mess hall  
to get plates of nice, hot food.



Captain Cat wished  
Pete would get him  
a plate with a mouse.





"Are you my buddy?" asked Pete.

"Me-ow," said Captain Cat.







Lights out!

Everyone went to sleep  
and dreamed of loved ones.







Captain Cat dreamed  
of his loved one, too.





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An I Can Read Book™

# Guess who has joined the army!

Captain Cat, that's who. He has whiskers and paws, and more stripes than the soldiers have ever seen. But most important, he has a best friend who can make an army barracks feel like home.

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